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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

UPON THE
SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT
DURING THE YEAR 1951.



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TO THE RAMSEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Council.

I beg to submit the Annual Report on the sanitary conditions of the district for the year ending 31st December, 1951.

STAFF :

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

F. D. F. STEEDE, M B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

SANITARY INSPECTOR (PART TIME)

V. J. BATEMAN, A.R.San.I.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area	...	...	...	...	15,980 acres
Estimated Population (mid 1950 ¹⁹⁵¹)	...				5,733
Number of Inhabited Houses, end } of 1950 ¹⁹⁵¹					1,702
Rateable Value	...	...	...		£21,164
Value of Penny Rate	...	...	...		£88 : 3 : 8

The social conditions of this primarily agricultural district remain as before with Ramsey supplying the shopping, social and recreational facilities for the area.

The opening of the Old Isolation Hospital by the County Council as a Health Clinic is a noteworthy achievement. The Council has also acquired a six acre recreational ground during the year, and this is to be named King George V Playing Field.

The health of the district remains good, and though the Infant Mortality rate is high it must be remembered that this rate is based on relatively very small numbers, and is not therefore statistically significant.

Rates and actual numbers of infant deaths for the years 1947 1951 inclusive, were as follows :-

	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951
Actual No. of Deaths	5	3	1	2	7
Rates all Infants per 1,000 Live Births	33.8	25.0	9.6	21.5	62.5

For yet another year there were no notifications of Diphtheria, significant of the success of the immunisation campaign. However, there are signs that freedom from this dread disease is resulting in a slight degree of complacency amongst the general public, and it cannot be emphasized too strongly that all children should have been immunised before the age of one year.

Housing progress has been rather slow, and the list of applicants is still a very long one.

The position with regard to the provision of a satisfactory Sewerage Scheme becomes more vital year by year, aggravated as it must be by new construction.

In conclusion I should like to thank the Members of the Council and their officers for their kindness to me in helping to make my task a pleasant one.

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births.

Birth Rate per 1000 population 19.5

Still Births.

Rate per 1000 total births 17.5

Deaths.

Death Rate per 1000 population 13.1

Deaths from Puerperal Causes per 1000 total } Nil
(live and still) births }

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births 62.5
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births 65.4
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) 11
Deaths from Measles (all ages) Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ... Nil
Deaths from Diarrhœa (under 2 years) Nil

RATES.

	Per 1000 Population.				Per 1000 live births
	Live Births	Still Births	Crude Death Rate	Std'd' ized Death Rate	Infantile Mortality
Ramsey U. D. ...	19.5	0.35	13.1	12.7	62.5
England & Wales ...	15.5	0.36	12.5	12.5	29.6

The following table shows the classification of deaths from all causes, Registrar General's figures.

Causes of Death.				M.	F.	Total
				33	42	75
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	3	—	3
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	—	—	—
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	—	1	1
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	—	—	—
5.	Whooping cough	...	...	—	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections	...	...	—	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	—	—	—
8.	Measles	...	...	—	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases			—	—	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	—	—	—
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus			1	—	1
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	—	2	2
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	—	2	2
14.	Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms			1	5	6
15.	Leukæmia, aleukæmia	...	...	—	—	—
16.	Diabetes	...	...	1	3	4
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	—	4	4
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	3	2	5
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	—	1	1
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	6	10	16
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	4	—	4
22.	Influenza	...	...	—	1	1
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	1	2	3
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	3	2	5
25.	Other disease of respiratory system	...	...	—	—	—
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	—	—	—
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhœa	...	...	—	—	—
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	1	—	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	2	—	2
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	—	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	—	1	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases			4	5	9
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	2	—	2
34.	All other accidents	...	...	—	1	1
35.	Suicide	...	...	1	—	1
36.	Homicide and operations of War	...	...	—	—	—

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

(a) **Laboratory Facilities :**

No change has taken place in the general arrangements during the past year. Bacteriological specimens from Practitioners in the district are examined at the Pathological Department of the Memorial Hospital, Peterborough, or by the Pathological Laboratory, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge.

(b) **Ambulance Facilities :**

(1) For the removal of infectious cases a motor ambulance is available at the Isolation Hospital, Huntingdon.

(2) For non-infectious and accident cases, ambulances are provided by the Huntingdon County Council from their depot at Huntingdon. For non-emergency cases there is still an available ambulance stationed at Ramsey.

(c) **Nursing in the Home :**

Nursing in the home is carried out by three qualified nurses employed by the Huntingdon County Council. All nurses are certified midwives and attend the majority of maternity cases under the Domiciliary Midwifery Scheme.

All cases of Tuberculosis are visited by the Tuberculosis Health Visitor and a report with details of home conditions and circumstances is completed.

(d) **Clinics and Treatment Centres :**

Infant Welfare Clinics are held at the Health Clinic on the 2nd and last Wednesday every month from 2—4 p.m.

The following additional Clinics are provided :-

School Clinic
(Minor Ailment)

Health Clinic 3rd Thursday
of the month, 10—12 noon

Dental Clinic	The Health Clinic 2nd Wednesday of the month 2—4 p.m.
Eyes	London Road Clinic, Old Fletton By Appointment
Tuberculosis	28, Fitzwilliam St., Peterborough Every Monday — 2—4 p.m. By Appointment.
Orthopædic	Memorial Hospital, Peterborough Every Monday, 2.15 p.m. By Appointment.
Nose, Throat and Ear Clinic	Memorial Hospital, Peterborough every Wednesday at 3 p.m. By Appointment.
Venereal Diseases	28, Fitzwilliam St., Peterborough
Women Only	Fridays — 10.30—12 noon. Wednesdays — 5.30—7 p.m
Men Only	Mondays — 5.30—7 p.m. Thursdays — 5.30—7 p.m.

Under the Ante and Post Natal Scheme, provided by the County Council, expectant mothers are examined twice during their pregnancy (or oftener if necessary) and once after confinement.

Note.—Antenatal Clinics which commenced in March 1952 are now held at the Health Clinic on Tuesday afternoons from 2—4 p.m.

(e) Hospitals:

- (1) Fever—The treatment of infectious diseases is carried out at the Hospital for Infectious Disease at Huntingdon
- (2) The Peterborough Memorial Hospital, the County Hospital, Huntingdon and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, continue to carry out the general hospital services in the district.
- (3) Provision is made for Maternity cases at the Maternity Hospital, Paxton Park.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

The routine visits of inspection in connection with this work have been carried out as in past years.

HOUSING.

During the year the Council completed 18 permanent houses. Two houses were completed by private enterprise. The standard of the new Council houses has been kept at a high level, but the number still required is considerable if all persons living in unfit houses are to be re-housed.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

A comprehensive scheme would seem to be as far off as ever while the regulations with regard to financial assistance to small Urban authorities remain as at present.

WATER.

Samples from the water supply are taken regularly and forwarded to the Emergency Public Health Laboratory at Cambridge for bacteriological analysis.

TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

SIR,

I beg to submit my report for the year ending
31st December, 1951.

Nuisances :

Abated as a result of informal action	...	...	16
Abated as a result of Statutory action	...	...	1
Analysis	No.	No. of Inspections	
Premises	16	24	
Overcrowding	4	4	
Foul ditches etc.	2	2	
Drains	Nil	Nil	
Animals	2	2	
Dampness	Nil	Nil	
Disinfestation	2	2	
Accumulation of Refuse	2	2	

Closets :

No. of houses at the end of the year with W.C.'s	747
" " " " " Pail Closets	934
" " " " " Privy Vaults	26
No. of W.C.'s constructed during the year for new houses	20
No. of Pail Closets newly constructed for old property	6

Cesspools :

No. of new cesspools provided	...	...	10
No. of cesspools emptied by L.S.A.	...	...	36
No. of cesspools emptied privately	...	...	26

Housing :

Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :			
1 (a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects	...	24
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose		26
2 (a)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	2
	(b) Number of dwelling-houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	6
Remedy of defects without service of Formal Notices			
	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	...	1

Action under Statutory Powers during the year :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	2
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	1

Milk Supply :

No. of Retailers' Premises inspected	...	1
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Disinfection :

Cases of Infectious Disease reported	...	4
No. of Inspections	...	6
Rooms disinfected	...	4
No. of Schools disinfected	...	Nil

Meat Inspection :

No. of slaughter houses on Register	...	6
No. of inspections	...	10
No. of visits for the inspection of meat	...	4

Water Supply :

Samples taken for analysis	...	26
Samples unsatisfactory	...	Nil
Wells closed	...	Nil
Wells cleansed and repaired	...	Nil
New Wells sunk	...	Nil
Ashbins: New provided	...	15
Offensive Trades: No. Registered	...	Nil

Shops and Offices :

No. of Shops inspected	...	4
No. requiring additional heating	...	Nil
No. requiring additional ventilation	...	Nil
No. requiring additional sanitary conveniences	...	Nil

Factory and Workshop Act, 1937.

Factories	...	Total number on register including bakehouses	37
		No. in which nuisances abated	Nil
Home work	...	No. of outworkers	Nil
Legal proceedings, <i>i.e.</i> , Summonses, etc.	...		Nil

V. J. BATEMAN, *Sanitary Inspector*

The following table gives the incidence of notifiable diseases (other than tuberculosis) in the area during 1951.

[illegible]

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notifications of infectious disease throughout the year were very low indeed.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The following table sets out the number of children immunised in the district, together with the figure of the total child population :-

Under 5 Years.

Between 5—15 Years

Number Immunised	Estimated Population	Number Immunised	Estimated Population
259	544	652	905

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
35	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL :—	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

F. D. F. STEEDE,

Medical Officer of Health

